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Is that your car?



Firefighters attempt to subdue a fire that consumed about 500 wrecked vehicles at Rectangle Auto Supply on Cushman Road in St. Catharines on Sunday, Jan. 31. Black smoke from the fire could be seen from as far away as Hamilton. The black-and-brown plumes, which billowed as the blaze produced a heavy smell, drew spectators from across the city. No one was injured. Damage was estimated at about \$15,000.

Photo by Lee Whitehead

Ebsary runs again

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

One year is almost done, and she wants to go for another.

Niagara College Student Administrative Council (SAC) President Jamie Ebsary is running for a second year as president at the Welland campus. She eagerly says, "It has been a wonderful experience so far, absolutely amazing."

Ebsary, graduating from the General Arts and Science program in April, decided to run for president last year because she'd been student council president at her high school. She says the college post holds much more responsibility and is more challenging, but, in the end, it's also more rewarding.

"It was a frustration first semester because nobody came out to the events we planned, but this semester has begun with a good start as the Monday-Night-Raw tickets sold out fast," says Ebsary.

The job requires at least 10 hours a week. Ebsary says she's thankful her academic schedule is light so she doesn't have to worry about

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CNIB crocuses to be delivered next week

Canadian National Institute for the Blind raises money with crocus sale

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

ST. CATHARINES - For the third consecutive year, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) held a fund-raiser selling crocuses.

The CNIB provides services to people in the Niagara Region who are blind and visually impaired.

The CNIB sold crocuses to fund-raise money for the organization. Sharon Gleason, of St.

Catharines, a volunteer at the organization for almost six years, and chair of the Niagara District Board of CNIB, said, "We send out information to schools, organizations, banks, businesses, churches, and (we send out) media releases."

"A lot of people (have) been calling asking if we're doing it again," said Gleason.

She said profits from this year's crocus sale are expected to surpass last year's by 25 per cent.

The campaign started at the beginning of the new year and has proved to be "successful."

The crocuses were for sale at a cost of \$4 a pot, or three pots for \$10.

This year though, Kim Hines, 31, a St. Catharines resident and

volunteer, said there were also handcrafted pots available for the first time. The handcrafted pots and crocuses were available for \$10.

The profits from this year's crocus sale are expected to surpass last year's by 25 per cent

The pots were hand painted by an artist in Owen Sound, Ont.

Gleason said, "The crocuses are inexpensive and are good gifts for anyone."

The CNIB also sells blank note cards "that are good for any occasion," said Gleason. The cost is \$1 each or six for \$5.

Today was the last day to buy crocuses and they will be delivered in the community the week of Feb. 8 to Feb. 12.

Gleason said orders of more than 15 will be delivered free by the volunteer drivers of the CNIB.

According to Gleason, this is the organization's major fund-raiser, along with a Glo-Ball tournament at the Eagle Valley, in Niagara Falls, at the end of May.

See related story and photo on page 3.

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Eye On Niagara

60-year-old charity helps its 1,800 clients adapt

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

ST. CATHARINES — Located on the corner of Church and James Streets is The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB).

It has been operating in the Niagara Region for the past 60 years and in Ontario for 80.

On the third floor of 63 Church St., the CNIB is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to help anyone needing its services or who just wants to ask a few questions.

With a door open and a smile to greet you, the CNIB has 1,800 clients, "which is the most we've ever had," said Sharon Gleason, of St. Catharines, who was a client for almost 10 years. For the past six, she has been a volunteer and is the chair of the Niagara District Board.

She said the number of clients is growing. The CNIB helps blind and visually impaired adults, teens and children in the Niagara Region.

It's the only organization providing services on national, provincial and regional levels.

According to Gleason, "when a person is diagnosed as blind, some-

one goes out and assesses them."

The CNIB team has rehabilitation teachers and workers, social workers, orientation and mobility instructors, technical aid workers and many others who are there to help.

A rehabilitation worker educates the individual to help him or her carry on in life as independently as possible.

Gleason said keeping the clients' independence is "really important."

Part of adapting to losing one's sight is how well they can get around at school, home and work.

Mobility instructors take the individuals to school and show them how to adapt to their surroundings. The same is done with work and home situations.

Problems clients have are with public transportation. It's good, if one takes the bus, to sit at the front and ask the driver to announce the stop loudly. It helps to take a white cane with them if they aren't familiar with the area.

Gleason said, "White canes identify a person as blind or visually impaired."

They're the universal symbol for

blindness and represent courage and independent spirits.

Besides white canes, "a lighter, longer, thinner one helps scan the area in front (of oneself) to make sure nothing is in the way," she said.

The CNIB has about 30 active volunteers who serve on committees and other district boards and around 70 volunteers working directly with clients and administration.

Gleason, who assists with fund-raising, said volunteers are there to talk and let the clients know they have someone as a resource.

There is also the "friendly visitor," said Gleason. "We match up personalities and then the two set up visitations themselves," she says.

Volunteers assist in driving clients to places and recording text books on tapes for students, so they can continue with their schooling.

The CNIB is partially funded by the provincial government because it's a "non-profit organization." A quarter of funding is through the United Way and the rest is from private donations and fund-raisers.

Volunteers are found through ads placed in local newspapers and from displays set up in malls.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should call 688-0022.



Kim Hines (left) and Sharon Gleason, both of St. Catharines, volunteer at The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and helped with the third annual crocus sale.

Photo by Jackie Field

Ebsary to run for second year

Organizational, time management skills improved
Ebsary says

Continued from page 1.

time constraints or interference with her classes.

She plans to return next year to take either the post-graduate Public Relations or Special Events Management program. She's determined. She wants the job of SAC president once more.

SAC's Financial Administrator Cindy Blanchard says, "I'm definitely happy that Jamie's running again. She is an enthusiastic people

person who has great ideas and follows through on them. She is wonderful at recruiting volunteers to help SAC out."

Ebsary says, "You must have a sense of humour and a lot of patience to be in SAC. If we didn't, we would be constantly at each other's throats. While being here, I have met two of my closest friends, who are also in SAC."

She says her organizational and time management skills have improved drastically. She says she compares what her desk looked like at the beginning of the semester and how organized it is now. She says being president has taught her a lot.

Elections for next year's SAC will be held on March 24. Ebsary says she'll definitely "be there."



Above, Jamie Ebsary, SAC's president, is running again to take on the challenge of yet another year as president.

Photo by Angela Pickering



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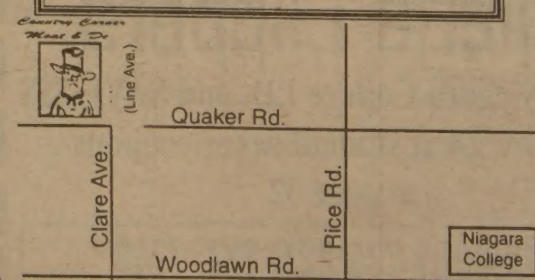
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Editorial

Niagara News

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Basics are important

Whatever happened to the education systems dedication to teaching students the basics?

Notice anything wrong about the preceding sentence?

Systems is written as a plural not a possessive (system's) as it should be written.

If you didn't notice the difference, you're probably a victim of the education system's having dropped grammar as part of the curriculum.

This generation's students were never taught grammar in elementary school. I never learned it until college.

This is an abomination. Without a strong foundation in language skills, children will never grow up to be able to communicate properly.

Why is drama taught while grammar, the very foundation of our language, is ignored?

Without a true understanding of our language, an understanding that can only be learned through grammar, people will never be successful at their endeavours.

There's nothing wrong with adding new courses to the curriculum as long as they don't take the places of the courses necessary for success in any field.

Let's get back to the basics.

Leah Farnan

Take time to smell roses

What's the rush?

It seems everywhere we go someone is in a hurry to meet a deadline, get to work or meet a friend.

Whatever happened to the old cliché "Take time to smell the roses?"

We know it would be nice if you could stop time, do what you have to do, and then start it again. Realistically, though, you don't always get what you want.

We are all pressed for time at some point in our lives. How we handle that pressure might be different.

Sure, some people fly off the edge, running around crazily trying to get everything done, but if they took a calmer, relaxed approach, everything would get done and probably with time to spare.

We don't understand why so many people complain about having so much to do, yet they aren't doing anything when they're complaining to you.

Whether you're driving at 140 km/h in an 80 km/h zone, or are two days late for an assignment, the solution comes down to the same thing: don't wait until the last minute to do what you have to do.

If people did what they had to do immediately, there would be time enough to relax, to take a deep breath — and to smell the roses!

Jackie Field

Party like it's 1999



By **SARAH STORM**
Staff Writer

I've heard people talk so much about the future and the year 2000, and all the technological advances that will happen in the new millennium.

Some people talk of other dimensions, advanced computers and flying cars, while others speak of a new evil society that will emerge.

I've heard about computers that can think like humans. Do they realize how complex a computer would have to be to make it think like a human?

It will still be the same world whether it is year 1999 or 2000.

I do believe we will continue to advance and maybe Star Trek will come true, but it will not happen overnight.

I agree we've come a long way in the last century, but just because we are entering a new millennium, I don't think our whole society is going to turn into the Jetsons.

There is the Y2K problem with computers, which people are paranoid about as well.

The Y2K problem, in short, is that computers can't compute the year 2000. This, if it isn't fixed, will be a major problem for all companies, such as banks and many government services, or any firm in which dates are important.

The computers are being fixed. It's just going to take a lot of time and money. I've been warned to start storing water and told to be prepared to lose heating and electricity for a while when the new year comes.

I'm sure they'll fix these things before it gets that extreme. We still have almost a whole year and companies have been working on these problems since they found out about it. Some computers are already compatible for the year 2000 and don't need any work at all.

It's neat that we're entering a new millennium, but I don't think it's that big a thing. It's just another year with different numbers.

I don't believe that because of a number, the world is going to blow up or become completely different.



Corrections

In last week's edition of the Niagara News (Volume 29, No. 7), we misspelled the name of the author of the book *The Poetry of Old Niagara*. His name is Kevin McCabe.

It is the policy of the Niagara News to correct errors of fact.

Let us know your opinion

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is:

1. All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication.
2. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
3. All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.

All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland campus.

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See page 32

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Viewpoints

Trade war possibility



By **LAZARUS NATHANE**
Staff Writer

I would like to get your impression of something.

As you're probably aware, trade relations between Canada and the United States are approaching a collision course.

At the heart of the latest dispute is Bill C-55. Canadians want to adopt it, and Americans detest it.

Should Parliament enact the bill at the end of February, it would make it illegal for Canadian companies to advertise in "split-run magazines."

Collision course

These are United States-based magazines sold in Canada, primarily to generate extra cash for the Americans and have little Canadian editorial content.

The bill's architect is Canada's Heritage Minister Sheila Copps. The former deputy prime minister says, among other things, she's acting to protect the country's magazine industry and cultural interests.

The Yankees, on the other hand, want the minister to withdraw the

bill and are overtly threatening retaliation once it becomes law.

They say they'll target Canadian exports such as steel, textiles and apparel and further argue Canada stands to lose, given the sanctions will affect its economy.

The *National Post*, for some reason, has been supportive of the United States in this dispute.

Canada's newest national daily newspaper has gone so far as to publish two editorial attacks on Copps. One was on Monday, Dec. 14, 1998, and the other on Thursday, Jan. 14.

In the latest article, the newspaper says Copps is a protectionist and "is attempting to impoverish Canadians culturally at the cost of impoverishing their industries economically."

Well, I think *National Post* editors have a point.

However, what they seem not to realize is withdrawing the bill under such intense American pressure may set a bad precedent.

Canada, as a sovereign state, has the right to make unilateral decisions in the best interest of its citizens.

In the heritage minister's words, as quoted in the *National Post's* Jan. 22 issue, "If we back down on the magazine issue, tomorrow it will be soft lumber, the day after it will be steel. We must not back down to threats from the Americans."

Her words makes sense to me. After all, you don't change anyone's mind by hurling abuses and making relentless threats. That argument is the point the Americans and their supporters are missing in this dispute.

I wonder, sometimes, what happened to gentle persuasion? Could

it be true you don't need it when you're powerful? I suspect that's the case in this situation.

I'm sure you know Americans control about 21 per cent of the world's economy while they account for about four per cent of its entire population.

Also, they're responsible for about 70 per cent of foreign investment in Canada while about 60 per cent of Canada's exports go to their country. Maybe that's why they like to play hardball.

Bill C-55 at the heart of recent trade dispute

I once told my Current Events teacher I've been reading newspapers for 14 years. I have yet to read a column or an editorial by the Canadian press criticizing the United States or its government.

In my observation, Canadian newspapers are very reluctant to assail the Yankees.

This probably explains why it was easy for the *National Post* to voice its objection about the federal government's actions.

True, the newspaper has the right to disagree with the minister. However, I don't think the editors should join the chorus of Larry Flint's Hustler magazine and call her names. That's very distasteful.

For your impression of the matter, please feel free to contact me at brainylaz@canada.com

No one cares



By **JEFF BOLAN**
Staff Writer

When a journalist writes a column for a major newspaper, the object is often to educate, enrage or engage the reading public.

This is not a major newspaper, but the concept is the same.

Today, it's almost impossible to anger the public. In the past year I've written columns on as many controversial subjects as I can.

So far, I've gotten one response.

There could be three reasons for this. First, I'm not a good writer and have difficulty in reaching the reader. I hope this is a false assumption for the sake of the thousands of dollars in tuition I have so far paid and for which I am unlikely to get a refund.

The second reason is that nobody is reading this newspaper. Let's hope this isn't true because we depend heavily on the advertisements we sell, based largely on the number of people who read our paper.

The third reason, and most likely in my humble opinion, is that nobody cares. About anything.

Don't get me wrong. People

still get angry. They still argue and intimidate one another.

It just seems the problems people get upset about are much smaller in scope.

I said/he said arguments should be a thing of the past. We can put a man on the moon but we can't seem to forget the fact someone just cut us off on the highway.

As a society and a species we must learn to tackle the real problems facing the world. The small problems won't go away, but they do have a tendency to solve themselves.

Column writing intended to anger the reading public

Past generations seemed able to overcome personal differences to conquer large problems such as the aforementioned man on the moon, the Nazis in the Second World War and, to a certain extent, the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

It's time people started looking beyond their own home, beyond their neighbourhood and beyond their own town. There are real problems out there that won't go away.

Get angry. Get mad. And don't take it lying down.

Deal with it: life isn't perfect



By **MARNI ANDERSON**
Staff Writer

Smile! It's not that bad.

I'm getting tired of people getting so stressed over every little thing. Life isn't perfect; it never will be. You should expect things to go wrong every once in a while because it's inevitable.

You're going to break a dish every now and then. The car isn't always going to start, and it will probably be on a day you need to be somewhere fast. Occasionally you will be late for school or fail an assignment. The list goes on and on.

Some things are beyond our control. Sometimes we all make bad

decisions. In the grand scheme of things, is it really that big a deal?

Think about how much time you waste being angry, frustrated or stressed. Is it worth it?

If you can't change a situation, then live with it. Even in the worst situation there's a bright side; you just have to find it. If you want to change something, and you can, then do it, but don't complain about it for three days. Nobody wants to hear it.

Don't get me wrong. If you're having a serious problem, it's good to talk about it. I'm just saying if you let everything bother you, soon people will see you coming and run the other way.

Moods are contagious, so who wants to be brought down by a whiner? I would rather be around happy people who enjoy life.

I'm a naturally happy person. A few weeks ago, I drove my car into a ditch and was stuck for 45 minutes until a helpful tow truck guy pulled me out. I didn't get mad. There was no need. I thought it was hysterical.

My poor car spent the next two

days being repaired. It cost me almost \$300, but I have it back now, and in the long run, the whole situation didn't affect my life.

I had a choice. I could have moaned and complained and driven everyone around me crazy, or I could have been upset for a few minutes and gotten on with my life with a positive "It could have been worse" attitude.

Who wants to be brought down by a whiner?

I chose to be happy because it takes a lot less energy than being miserable. What would you have done?

Culture worth jobs?



By **SEAN COFFEY**
Staff Writer

Is Canadian culture worth more than Canadian jobs?

Sheila Copps seems to think so.

The battle to protect Canada's cultural identity may soon claim some casualties in Canada's steel industry.

Heritage Minister Copps is trying to push through a bill to stop the infiltration of the Canadian mind by that terrifying culture-eating monster that is the United States.

She plans to do this even if it

puts our steel industry at risk of losing desperately needed American business.

Wake up, Copps!

Our steel industry is one of the world's largest exporters, and it just so happens the United States is its No. 1 importer.

So, while her cause may be a noble one, in today's economic environment, it's foolish to gamble with one of our most important trading assets for the sake of a few ads in some magazines.

U.S. a culture-eating monster

Perhaps if the government members would stop bickering among themselves and taking such long vacations from House sittings, they might be more in tune with Canada's needs and not their own.

Eye on Niagara

Division's director enjoying post

By MÉLANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

A background in tourism may explain his interest in his current position.

Dave Taylor, director of the hospitality and tourism division and campus activities at Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls, is responsible for "everything to do with this campus, not just academics."

Taylor, 42, of Willoughby, has been the centre's director since 1996. He's held various other positions at the college since 1983.

Taylor says he enjoys his work for the college because it's different every day.

"The hospitality and tourism industry is at a point in its evolution, and it's exciting, it's growing," he says, adding, "it's a great time to be involved in the hospitality and tourism sector."

"My background is tourism, ever since I started working," Taylor says he was a Marineland parking lot attendant when he was 14 years



DAVE TAYLOR

old and has had some connection with the hospitality and tourism industry since then.

"This campus, itself, being a showpiece for the college, I enjoy hosting international groups, working with the industry."

Taylor says he likes to think of the campus as "everything to do with the celebration of life . . . People love food, they love tourism and travel, so when they think of this campus, they think of what they do on vacation — they eat, they sightsee and they enjoy. They're tourists."

He says there are aspects of every job that are frustrating and challenging, but he tries to focus on the positive.

"There's a lot of positives to focus on here. It's a great time to be at this campus."

Before coming to work for Niagara College, Taylor owned a company. He was a marketing analyst and says his biggest clients were in the hospitality and tourism field as well as in education.

Taylor graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1978, then worked as a tour guide and in tourism sales. He backpacked in Europe for three months.

"Everything in my background ties in with tourism and travel."

Taylor is completing his master's degree in distance education from Athabasca University in Alberta.

Taylor's wife, Michele, has her own business in drapery and home accessory design. He says his daughter Kacey, 7, and son Wesley, 5, are "very active in a number of things, skating and soccer. They're involved in everything."

Taylor says he puts a lot of hours into his work. He says nine-to-five hours don't exist. "I recognize the fact that the hospitality industry is a 24-hour-a-day job."

"Our academic life here is even longer than normal. We have a lot of night labs and evening functions. The Kerrio dining room sometimes runs until 10 p.m., and I sometimes have to be here for that."

He says the hours are based on the needs of the programs and the industry.

Because of his extended work hours, Taylor says he tries to include his family in some of the functions and dinners.

Look for next Blue Moon

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

Two full moons in one month. January had two full moons, one on the second and the 31st.

The latter of the two is referred to as a Blue Moon because it is the second full moon of the month.

There is no full moon next month, but March will also have a Blue Moon on the 31st.

In case some of you were wondering, if you looked in the sky on the 31st and didn't see a blue moon, it's OK.

It is only blue by name.

There are many legends about the Blue Moon. One is if you make a wish on it, the chances of it coming true are good.

There won't be another Blue Moon besides the one in March, until the year 2018.

Anodyne takes pride in their accomplishments

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

Sometimes it does pay off, even if you have to start at the bottom.

Daniel Buzzelli, 20, from Burlington, Ont., is one who knows this firsthand.

A Journalism-Print student at Conestoga College in Kitchener, Ont., Buzzelli is part of something

he's wanted to do since he was four years old — play the drums in a band.

His dream was realized in 1996 when he was asked to join a band called the Anodyne. The singer of the band, Cormac Cleary, and the rhythm guitarist, Gord Shannon, had left their previous band and were looking for new members.

After deciding to sign on, Buzzelli asked his brother Mark to join. Mark is now the lead guitarist.

Buzzelli said his father bought him a set of drums when he was five and he's been playing ever since.

"My father played the drums, so I just learned from watching him," says Buzzelli.

"The first time we played in pub-

lic was at an event called Friday Night Live. Many different bands played in this variety show by the lake.

"When we first started out together, we would play at a few small places where we lived, but things have gotten pretty big since then."

The members practice all the time, and as a result of their hard work and dedication, they're about to release their second CD, around Valentine's Day.

In the summer of 1997, their first CD was released, but it almost didn't happen, says Buzzelli.

"We were set on getting our music out to people and, unfortunately, our manager at the time wasn't on the same wavelength as we were. She made promises that she never followed through on."

After realizing that, Matt Barnhart, the bass player, and Buzzelli convinced their parents to put the money up to pay for the recording session.

"Our parents really stood by us, and because of them, we are where we are today," says Buzzelli.

The costs were high. There was studio time, artwork for the cover and the cost of making 1,000 copies of their CD *Stardom in a Bodybag*. In total, the costs amounted to about \$4,500.

"We paid our parents back from the sales of the album. We have already given them back all the money they put into it," says Buzzelli.

Now they've just finished recording their second CD, entitled *Eternal Now*, which, Buzzelli says, means "living in the moment."

The road down the music highway wasn't easy for the guys, but with the help of current band manager Dave Christen, they were able to get further, says Buzzelli.

Christen, who owns a Toronto-based talent agency called Christen

and Associates, decided the guys were worth his attention. Clearly, the band's singer, registered at the agency to have the band heard. After Christen listened to their first CD, he decided to see what else they could do.

He showed up at a few of their shows, and the rest, as they say, is history. That was a year ago.

Despite not having a distribution deal, the band sells its album at the places where they perform. Buzzelli says Christen is trying to get it in the stores as soon as he can.

"It's all about being proud of what you've done and accomplished. Our music is like an obsession with us, a religion even," says Buzzelli.

There are some slow love songs, but it's mostly funk.

"All the guys in the band are extremely different and are from all different cultures. We have very diverse backgrounds and a very diverse difference in music, but we make great chemistry when we play."

Buzzelli says they're in it for the "long haul," and the band members' futures involve playing no matter what they're doing.



From back left to right, Gord Shannon, Daniel Buzzelli, Cormac Cleary. Front, Matt Barnhart, Marc Buzzelli.

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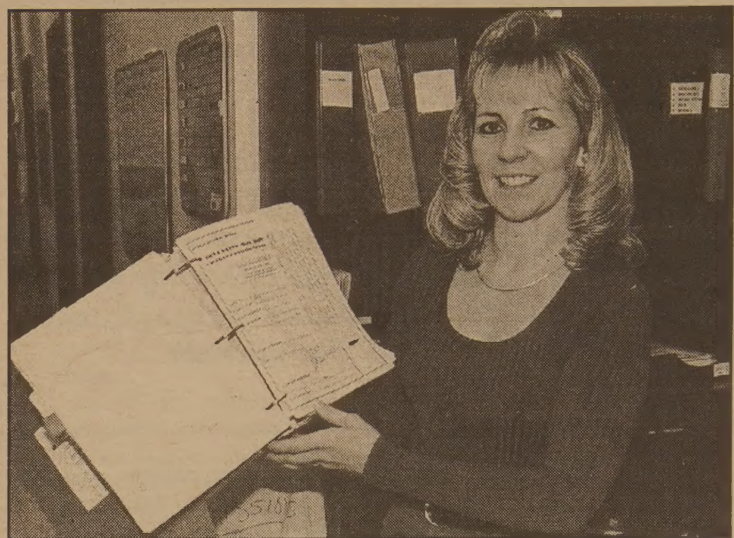
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Eye On Niagara

Intercity bus bursary a hit



Brenda Larouche, admissions and financial aid clerk, holds up binder filled with intercity bus bursary forms.

Photo by Rosemary Bartlett

Reimburses cost of commuting to Glendale site

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

The intercity bus bursary is rolling along on the wheels of success.

As of Jan. 22, 153 Niagara College students have submitted applications and receipts to collect the \$250 bursary for the September to December term. Twenty-three

applications and receipts have been submitted for reimbursement for the January to April term.

"It is quite popular," said Brenda Larouche, admissions and financial aid clerk.

"We'll probably get more (applications) this term because of word of mouth," said Al Vaughan, registrar.

The bursary, introduced last September, is designed to help reimburse students living in Niagara Falls and Welland for the cost of commuting by bus to the new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The bursary is based on a four-month semester, September to December and January to April.

Submit receipts once a term

Students can submit one application, with their accumulated receipts once a term, and receipts must be submitted before the last day of the term, said Larouche. Further, students must demonstrate with receipts that they take two buses.

"You have to show there is a need for this transportation," said Larouche adding, "if you live very close to the college and you are taking one bus, you can't qualify for it."

Students are reimbursed by cheque within a two-week period. "We do it the same as our pay periods. It's not a cheque on the spot," said Vaughan.

Applications for the bursary can be picked up and handed in at the financial offices at the Welland or Glendale campuses. Niagara Falls students can pick up applications at the administration office at the Maid of the Mist Centre for Hospitality and Tourism.

Glendale gets new mid-day bus run

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

The St. Catharines Transit Commission has added a mid-day run to increase ridership from Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake to the Brock Hub.

Eric Gillespie, general manager for the St. Catharines Transit Commission, said, "With there only being the two trips a day from the Glendale campus, many students were making alternate arrangements during the day to find a way home."

Whereas 30 students would take the bus from Brock University to attend classes in the morning, ridership would be down to four or five students for the return trip to the Brock Hub at Brock University at 4:40 p.m., he said.

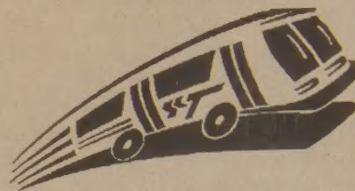
"Adding a mid-day trip that leaves the Glendale campus at 12:30 p.m. to make a 1 p.m. Hub connection at Brock University has helped to increase the afternoon ridership," said Gillespie.

The transit companies for St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Thorold and Welland intersect at Brock University, aptly called the Brock Hub. From Brock, students can catch connecting buses to any of those four communities.

Gillespie said Niagara College is helping to subsidize the three

daily trips to the new campus. "It's really being funded by two funding partners, the transit riders and the college."

"The dilemma with the Glendale campus connection



with the Hub really boils down to cost," said Gillespie. "It would be wonderful to offer 15-minute service from the Hub to all locations but the ridership isn't there to support it."

Al Vaughan, college registrar, said the intercity bus bursary "over the long run can make the whole system more viable." The more affordable it is for students to use the bus, the more they're going to take the bus, he said adding, "increased ridership will result in better service."

The \$250 bursary reimburses students living in Niagara Falls or Welland for the costs of commuting by bus to the Glendale campus.

Dental clinic open for business

By SARA DE TAMBLE
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Dental Hygienist/ Assistant programs are working together to provide good dental care at affordable prices during their clinics this month.

The students have been training for clinical practice since classes started in September. The dental assistants will be teaming up with four area dentists from the community, says dental faculty adviser Kathleen Adams.

Students teaming up with area dentists

If the client needs more extensive dental work, such as fillings or simple extractions, these services are available to them in the restorative clinic.

The clinic, says Adams, is "very popular," because it provides good dental work at affordable prices. "We charge about half of what you would pay at a dentist's office."

"It's good because it gives the students a chance to practice their skills," says Adams, as well as providing affordable dental care to the community. "Everybody wins."

Anyone wishing to make an appointment can contact the clinic at 735-2211 ext. 7758. The restorative clinic will start on Feb. 10 and run through May 19.

Provides affordable dental care

"The clinic will be a two-step process," says Adams. "First, clients go through the hygienists' clinic where cleaning and polishing takes place, just like a regular dentist visit." X-rays are available.

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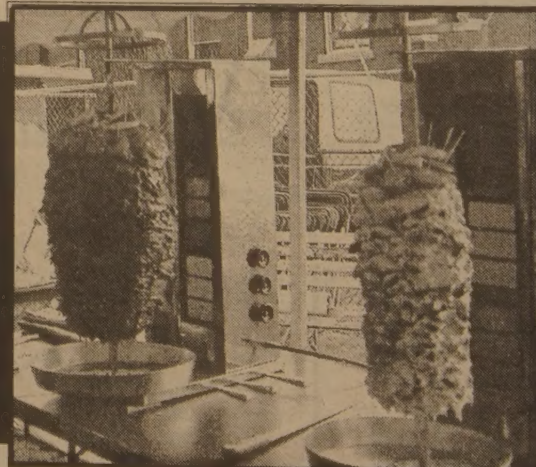
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Continuing Education

'Hot' Skills 2000 this week, Cisco by fall

Microsoft programs branch receives two accreditations, more are expected

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Continuing Education's new branch continues to thrive.

New to Niagara College this year, Continuing Education's Microsoft Programs branch has received two new accreditations.

The first, Novell Academic Education partner, was received last mid-December. This accreditation allows the branch to train students to use Novell servers.

Before receiving this accreditation, the program's students were trained to receive Microsoft's A+ certification and to become a Microsoft certified systems engineer. Now they also receive the certified Novell administrator (CNA) certification.

Toni Lepp, of St. Catharines, the program's technical education coordinator, said this accreditation was added to the program in order "to get our students through the

doors of companies using Novell servers."

CNA accreditation was added 'to get our students through the doors of companies using Novell servers.'

—Toni Lepp

Students who were in the program when the accreditation was received were trained as CNAs. It is fully integrated into the program.

The other accreditation the program received is C-tech, which makes the program a Certified

Technical Institution.

"This is probably the highest accreditation you can get," said Lepp.

As a C-tech, the program can be offered off-site to train corporations in a condensed version of the program. This version takes five days versus the full-length program,

which takes 19 weeks and costs \$10,500.

No cost has been set for the condensed corporate version. Its students don't write the exams necessary for them to receive their credentials.

Lepp said there are three other colleges in Ontario with the C-tech

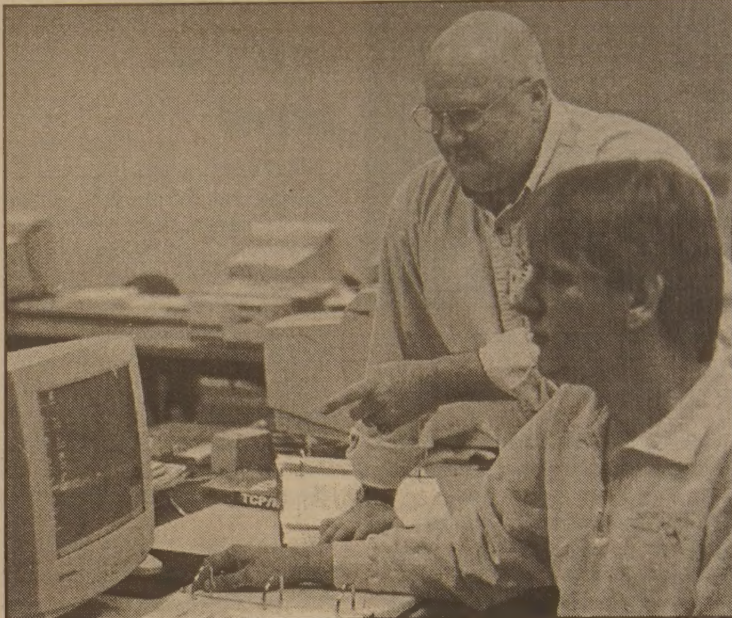
certification, adding she'll begin marketing heavily as a C-tech the middle of this month.

Expected accreditation will give students chance at a four-month paid internship and better chance at student line of credit.

She said the program expects to receive the Skills 2000 accreditation within the next week. This will provide "more flexibility with student lines of credit," said Lepp, adding the program isn't covered by the Ontario Student Assistance Plan because the government feels it's "too commercial."

This accreditation will also give the program's students a chance at a four-month paid internship.

Lepp said she expects the program to receive yet another accreditation this September as a Cisco level one and two training centre. Lepp describes this as "some hot accreditation."



Mike Cherniak, a student in the Microsoft program, sits in front of a computer while he is instructed by Robert Lewis, one of the program's teachers.

Photo by Leah Farnan

Calling All Bands

The Niagara News is looking for bands from around Niagara that are interested in some FREE print publicity!

"Riding the Riff III," will be published March 25, 1999.

The only cost to the band is time. If your band has recently released a CD, or are about to, you'll want to be in this popular college edition. It's a first come basis! We'll need to conduct an interview and take a photo so don't wait.

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Health Issues

Arthritis Society dedicated since 1948

By **LARISSA KONDUSKY**
Staff Writer

ST. CATHARINES — Each morning millions of Canadians get out of bed and begin their day. For about one million Canadians, however, the simple task of getting out of bed has become a hardship they have grown to live with.

The Arthritis Society has been helping people cope with their disease for about 50 years. Through various programs, it provides options for people seeking information.

The society, since it began, has been raising and donating money to arthritis research. It continues raising money through the year with fund-raising events throughout the country and region.

People with arthritis endure pain from swollen joints and inflamed connective tissue. Depending on the type of arthritis, they may become handicapped, says Joyce McIntosh, development co-ordinator of the Arthritis Society, 300 Bunting Rd., St. Catharines.

"If they (the clients) have rheumatoid arthritis, they can have deformed hands (and) toes. Their knees (and) their joints breakdown, affecting the way they walk. They become handicapped eventually if they don't get the proper treatment."

With 129 different types of arthritis, this disease affects about four million Canadians and is the second most costly disease in Canada.

According to The Arthritis Society, Canada has spent a total of \$157 billion on direct and indirect costs relating to arthritis. It predicts the number of people debilitated by this disease will rise from

572,000 in 1991 to 1.2 million by 2031.

The Arthritis Society has been dedicated to helping people since 1948. It's the only non-profit agency dealing completely with arthritis research and care in Canada.

"One in seven people have arthritis in Canada. If you do the math, 100,000 people (have arthritis) in the region," says Brenda Haskins, development associate of The Arthritis Society.

She says "total debilitation" has been the worst case she has seen in the region, adding, the disease can make a person feel depressed and hopeless.

The three most common forms of rheumatoid arthritis in Canada are osteoarthritis, rheumatoid and fibromyalgia, says McIntosh.

Osteoarthritis is the most common kind, in Canada, affecting 2.7 million people. It strikes about 85 per cent of seniors but can affect people of any age. There is no cure for this disease, only ways to relieve the pain.

McIntosh suggests knowledge as the best medicine. She says the more you know, the better informed you'll be and the better able to ask the correct questions when you visit your doctor or specialist.

"Your best help is always yourself, finding your own knowledge first before you go to the doctor."

The society has many ways to help people including videos that can be lent out, exercise programs, literature, a 1-800 number, an aquatics program, a self-management program and more.

The Arthritis Self-Management program is a self-help program, two

hours a week for six weeks. Patients learn more about what arthritis is and how to deal with the disease on a day-to-day basis. The cost is \$30, and anyone with arthritis, or affected by it, can participate.

"It's an excellent program," says Haskins. "The reason why they (the clients) are there is that they are searching for help. By the end of the six weeks session, they feel more powered."

Along with these resources, the society raises money for research by canvassing, golf tournaments, dress-down days, gift wrapping at Christmas, bowling tournaments and many more events throughout the year.

"The core of our being is fund-raising," says Haskins.

Since 1948, the society has donated about \$100 million to research. It raised about \$7 million in 1998.

The society has about 70 executive volunteers and relies on many more for its fund-raising events.

Haskins thanks the volunteers and says the society couldn't manage without them.

'Your best help is always yourself, finding your own knowledge first before you go to the doctor.'

—Joyce McIntosh

"They've taken the time out of their life to volunteer, everyday sometimes... and there is just no way we could replace them."

McIntosh agrees saying, "Our volunteers are to be commended.



Joyce McIntosh, development co-ordinator, and Brenda Haskins, development associate, stand in front of the Arthritis Society's commitment to helping people. **Photo by Larissa Kondusky**

We couldn't do it without them; that's for sure."

The society is always looking for people to volunteer for different events throughout the year, and it doesn't mean they have to commit themselves for a lot of time, says Haskins.

She says a little help goes a long way and "every hour counts."

"Some people do the gift wrap. They are there for three hours and that's all they did and then they'll be back again next year."

McIntosh adds, "It just depends on what your interests are. If you

have a number of interests, there are different programs that we are running that we need volunteers for."

On March 8, the society will be holding a "Strike-out" day at local bowling alleys in St. Catharines. All the proceeds will go to research and programs.

The day is designed for people to have fun and raise money for arthritis, says McIntosh.

The society says it needs volunteers for this event. If you're interested in volunteering, call the Arthritis Society at 646-7284 or visit your local office.

Emotional insurance rewarding

By **MARNI ANDERSON**
Staff Writer

About 20 businesses in the Niagara Region, including Niagara College, have emotional insurance for their employees through Jacquie Herman Associates.

The 11-year-old company, located in St. Catharines, provides an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to help employees deal with a wide range of problems.

Kelly Dickenson, of St. Catharines, says, "It's normal to have stress, anxiety and grief," adding everyone experiences problems in life, and it's good to get advice from a trained counselor.

Dickenson, director of marketing and administration, has been with the company for four years contacting firms that don't have an EAP, to sell the idea to employers.

Once the program is in place, employees with a problem can contact the office directly to make an appointment.

This is a confidential service. Although employers are told how many people used the service, they aren't told who used it.

The cost depends on the number of employees in the company as well as how many use it. "It ranges between \$30 and \$45 per employee, per annum," says Dickenson.

"Studies have found that companies who offer their employees an EAP have lower stress and lower absenteeism."

A survey by Statistics Canada in 1998 showed 55 per cent of absences from work are due to family issues and stress. Companies lose \$2 billion a year as the result of employees' personal problems. EAPs save employers \$16 for every \$1 invested, and 85 per cent of the Fortune 500 companies have an EAP.

Of the people polled, 87 per cent say they would work harder for a company willing to help with personal problems.

"Our counselors try to help you reach your goal in the shortest time possible," says Dickenson, adding instead of being in counseling for years people usually get through in four to eight sessions. "Our goal is to help you move on with your life."

The company offers counseling in a wide range of areas including family, depression, anxiety, stress management, alcohol or chemical dependency and finances.

In addition to counseling, group workshops are also available on topics including stress management, communication skills, anger management and team building.

Workshops are "custom designed to meet the needs of the client," says Dickenson.

Cost depends on the number of employees attending and the length.

If you have any questions or require further information contact Jacquie Herman Associates at (905) 687-8564.

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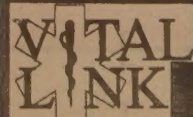
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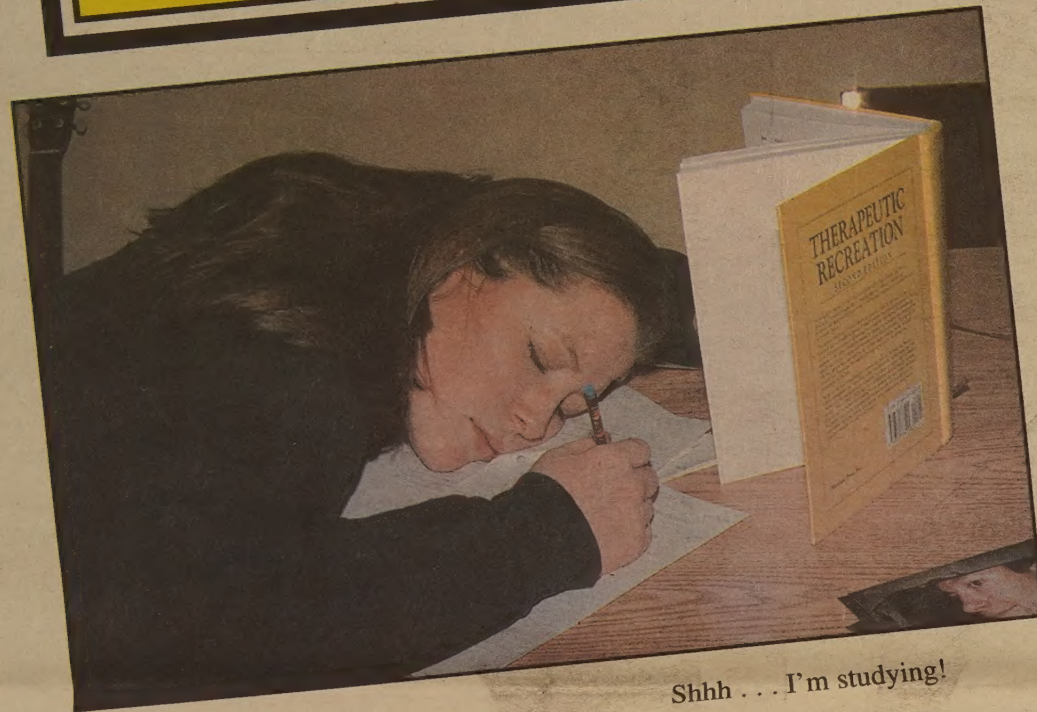
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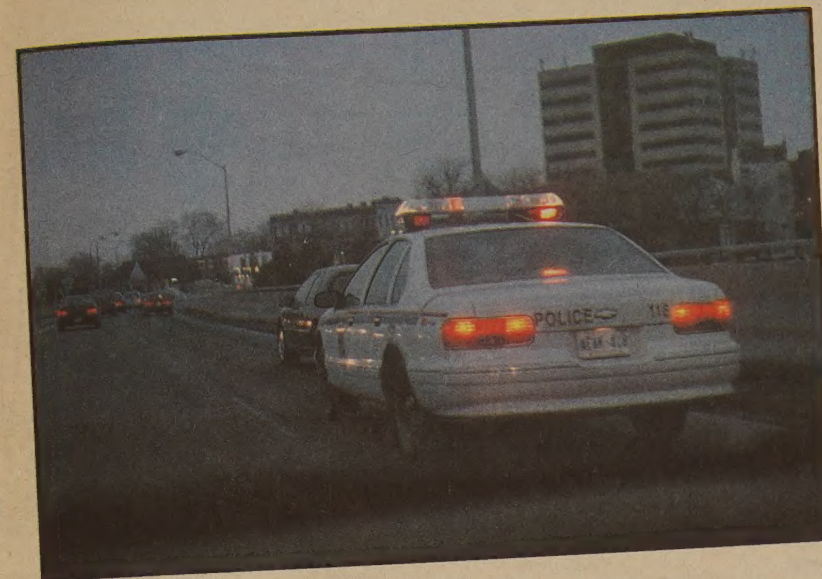
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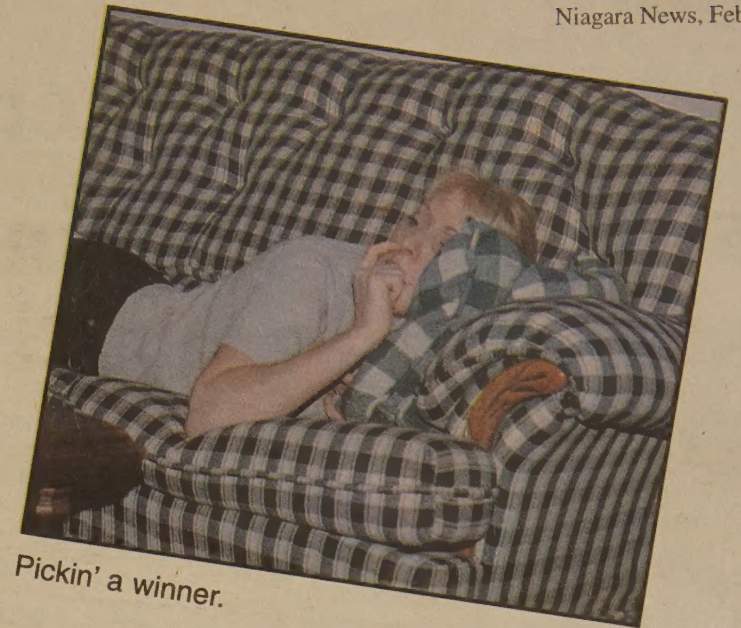
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Are these clean clothes?



Meow, meow, it's time to chow.

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Entertainment

Grose doesn't give in to audience pressure

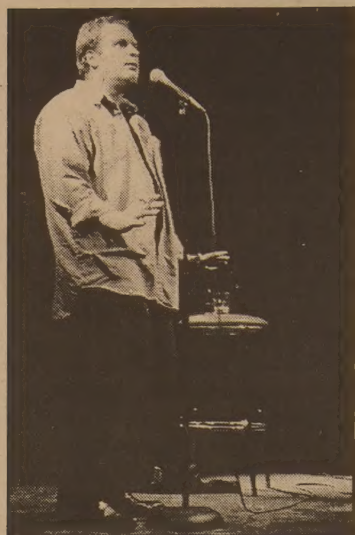


Photo by Sharilyn Johnson

A relatively sober Andrew Grose entertained the crowd between their chants of "chug!"

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The next time comedian Andrew Grose performs at Niagara College, it's a safe bet he won't be leaving sober.

The crowds at After Hours have a history of prompting Grose to drink excessively when he performs on campus. He usually is reluctant, but was especially adamant about not drinking during his Jan. 27 show.

"It's my fifth anniversary," Grose, 33, told the audience, and said he couldn't get drunk because he had to call his wife afterwards.

That didn't stop the alcohol from coming — the bar stool on stage gradually became cluttered with drinks.

It also didn't stop the chants of "chug! chug! chug!" but as hard as the audience pressed him, he only finished off a few by the time the show was through.

"I've got a great closer, but I've never been sober enough to do it here," he said.

Grose is one of the favourites at After Hours, and one of the best received comedians to appear there.

The Edmonton native performed most of the same material he's used in his previous appearances, but the repetition didn't bother those who had obviously seen him before. ("Chug!")

Fortunately, he did manage to deliver his closer.

Grose is going to Los Angeles soon for an "industry showcase," where he'll perform for a group of network television executives in hopes of being offered a sitcom.

"It's a crap shoot. You never know," he said.

He leaves Feb. 21 and returns in time to see his episode of *Comics* air on CBC Feb. 24.

Toronto's Tony Krolo, 36, opened the show. He worked clean and

used a lot of self-deprecating humour based on the fact he is "nasally abundant."

The show was billed as the "All-Alberta Beef Tour," a billing which seemed to confuse him.

"I'm not a beef thing at all. I don't know where I'm involved in this," he said.

"I'm actually eating a veggie burger right now."

In addition to his stand-up experience, Krolo has a strong acting and improv background. He was in the cast of Toronto's Second City in the mid-'80s and just taped an episode of The Comedy Network's *Supertown Challenge*, in which he plays an accident-prone daredevil from Niagara Falls.

Coming this month: Feb. 10 — Stephen Cox and Freddy Proia, Feb. 17 — Tim Nutt and Bill MacIntosh, Feb. 24 — Jimmy Mac and Chuck Byrn. Shows are all-ages with no cover.



Photo by Sharilyn Johnson

Toronto's Tony Krolo opened the show at After Hours Jan. 27.

Celebrate Valentine's Day with two SAC events

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Love is in the air, and Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC) has planned two free Valentine's Day events.

Feb. 11 at 12:30 p.m. there will be two rounds of dating games in the After Hours pub. There will be one bachelor, one bachelorette and six candidates chosen from the audience, says Jamie Ebsary, Welland campus's SAC president.

The bachelor and bachelorette will each ask three contestants questions of their choice and eventually choose who he or she thinks is the best.

The bachelor and bachelorette, and whomever they choose, will receive a grand prize but "nobody will be forced to go on a date," says Ebsary. If the lucky couples want to go on a date, or pursue anything

outside of the game, that's up to them.

Anyone who's interested in participating can go to the event and fill out a ballot, available at the door, says Cindy Blanchard, Niagara College's SAC financial administrator, and office administrator for Welland campus SAC. The ballots will be drawn before the game starts.

On Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m., SAC has planned a "Valentine's Day Massacre," with the World Wrestling Foundation (WWF) wrestling on a big screen television and student sumo wrestling competitions.

"We're renting the big sumo suits," says Ebsary. The competitions will take place in the pub. Everyone is welcome to try the wrestling and each person can wrestle whomever they wish.



Juno Awards honour best music scene Canadians

By CHRISTINE MORGAN
Staff Writer

TORONTO — At the annual Juno awards, Canadian artists will be recognized for their involvement in the music industry.

This year the 28th annual Juno Awards will be honouring the best in Canadian music on March 7, at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton.

Comedian Mike Bullard will be hosting the award show, live from the coliseum, beginning at 8 p.m.

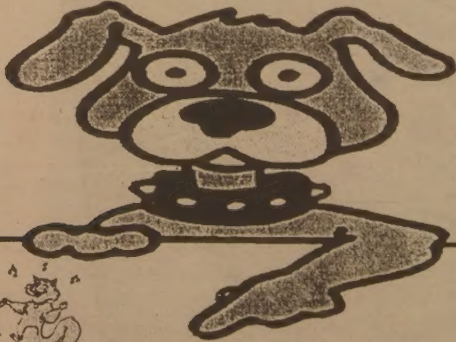
Recognition will go to such artists as Celine Dion, nominated for six Junos and the International Achievement Award and The Philosopher Kings, with three nominations including Best Group, Best Pop Album, *Famous, Rich and Beautiful* and Best Single, *Hurts to Love You*.

David Usher has two nominations for the album *Little Things* — Best Male Vocalist and Best Video, for the single, *Forestfire*. The Barenaked Ladies are nominated for Best Single, *One Week*, Best Group, and Best Pop Album, *Stunt*.

Allan Waters, CHUM chairman and president, will be inducted into the Builders' section of the Canadian Music Hall of Fame as the 1999 recipient of the Walt Grealis Special Achievement Award.

Waters represents commitment and exemplifies excellence in the broadcasting industry, say organizers of the event.

CHUM maintains 24 radio stations and six television stations across Canada.



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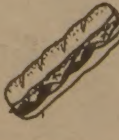
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Entertainment

Actor yes, singer no

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

Just when it seemed the world had more than its share of singers and songwriters, along comes Joe Pesci.

Pesci, who's famous for his role in the 1992 movie *My Cousin Vinny*, steps up to the microphone and belts out songs in that familiar New Jersey twang.

Titled after Pesci's alter-ego, the CD *Vincent LaGuardia Gambini Sings Just for You* features a sampling of music ranging from Louis Prima to Jimmy Durante to Frank Sinatra. Who said the mafia was dead?

The CD has equal parts seriousness and profanity as explained in the parental advisory on the cover, which makes it difficult to decide whether Pesci is meaningful or just being himself.

The CD brings new meaning to Christmas spirit with the tasteless track *If It Doesn't Snow for Christmas*. It even features an educational side to it with the track *My Cousin Vinny* being sung in English, Italian and Spanish. Once is more than enough.

This is not the first time Pesci has delved into the music industry.

After dropping out of high



school, Pesci tried his hand as a lounge singer by landing himself a job playing guitar for the band Joey Dee and the Starliners. They rose to the top of the charts with their hit *Peppermint Twist*.

Pesci says he remembers singing and playing guitar in his teens and 20s.

Nevertheless, no matter how much experience Pesci has in the music industry, I don't recommend subjecting yourself to his harmful lyrics.

If I had any respect for Pesci as an actor, I certainly don't have any for him as a singer-songwriter.

Had it not been for the fact this CD was supplied to the *Niagara News* at no cost, I would not have put forth the effort to tear the shrink wrap from the cover.

Simple steps to non-smoking life

By SANJA NOVAKOVIC
Staff Writer

The seven steps to a smoke-free life explained in this book could help you join the ex-smokers' population.

The Lung Association has recruited physicians, psychologists and health educators to research the "best" way to help people stop smoking, said Edwin B. Fisher, in his book *7 Steps to a Smoke-Free Life*.

Fisher said many smokers think if they're addicted they won't be able to quit, but addiction can be broken. The program will help smokers understand their individual smoking habits.

By developing and increasing their personal motivation to quit, Fisher said smokers will develop an

individualized plan for quitting.

"You will learn maintenance skills to help you stay off cigarettes."

He said the program is especially useful for people who have tried to quit before and failed, because they will learn how to work through temptations and cravings.

The program will help smokers to manage stress, keep off extra weight, avoid setbacks and, above all stick with it, said Fisher.

"Some people mistakenly believe that cutting down on smoking, changing their cigarette smoking patterns, or switching to brands that are advertised as 'low tar' or 'low nicotine' will be enough to help them to overcome their nicotine addiction," said Fisher in his book.

Nicotine, one of the most toxic of

all drugs, affects almost every system in the body.

"Take just a puff or two of a cigarette and your heart beats faster, your pulse quickens, your veins constrict and your blood pressure increases," he said.

An addiction is a highly repetitive or compulsive pattern of using a drug. Numerous research studies have shown that nicotine is the drug in tobacco that causes addiction, Fisher said.

He said every smoker has different psychological motives for beginning to smoke, such as peer pressure, stress or curiosity, and they have different reasons for wanting to free themselves from addiction, such as health concerns, appearance concerns, family pressure or money.

Poems written for one's soul

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

He's creative, playful and still full of hilarity.

Shel Silverstein is back again with his newest edition of poems and drawings. *A Light in the Attic* is full of cute characters and is ingenious. His collection of short poems and drawings has followed his previous book *Where the Sidewalk Ends* and is just as witty.

This book is aimed at the spectrum of readers. All ages will laugh



at his incredible way of telling a story with rhyme and illustrations.

Come meet Mrs. McTwitter, the baby-sitter, or perhaps the Dragon of Grindly Grun, who breathes fire as hot as the sun. Whoever it may be, you will see, they all have unique and lovable qualities.

This book is recommended to anybody who loves to read poetry and anyone who doesn't, for that matter. It will make you giggle, make you smile and perhaps make you want to read his first book.

Libra in for happy surprise this month

By SARA DE TAMBLE
Staff Writer

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)

— This year will provide you with the fresh start you've been waiting for these past few months. The forgiveness you're seeking from a friend is as good as yours. Use your uplifted spirits to give yourself the confidence to go after the job you've been wanting.

TAURUS (April 30 to May 20)

— The financial worries you've been having will only get worse if you ignore them. Take the time to go over your finances and develop a budget. It's always a good idea to have some cash on hand for a rainy day. Your significant other has something on his/her mind, but prefers to deal with it alone. Don't be hurt. The problem doesn't involve you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)

— Make a resolution to stay close to your friends. Yes, it's wonderful to be happy and in love, but it's those people who have been there for you all along that you can count on in bad times. Friendships should continue no matter how smitten you are. A family member is about to make an important decision that might involve you. Keep your ears open and pay attention to the fine details.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)

— The certain someone you are so crazy about is terrified of getting hurt. Don't take everything he/she says or does at face value. Deeper meanings are hidden everywhere and you shouldn't have to look very hard to find them. Just be as loving and supportive as you have been in the past and everything will fall into place. You two are living proof that love at first sight doesn't just

happen in the movies.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

— Despite your claims that you've mended your selfish ways, that obviously isn't the case. A certain someone is completely fed up with you, and there's nothing you can do about it. You've used up all your "second chances," so best of luck. Have fun playing those games alone in your own little world. You'll be happier there anyway. At least if you play by yourself you might win for a change.

end very soon. The slump you've been in is almost over, and you're finally figuring out what you want to do with your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

— A happy surprise is in store for you. Isn't there something you've wanted for a long time? Well, the waiting is over and now that secret wish is going to come true. A co-worker will ask your advice about a difficult situation. Be supportive, but avoid taking sides or it just might be you who ends up on the hot seat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

— Too many people have been putting demands on you lately and you're getting worn out. Take a weekend and just relax. Staying away from the bar scene just this once won't kill you. Besides, there's a certain someone who would love to cuddle up and watch movies with you.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 to Dec. 21

— You've shown that there is a very sweet and sensitive side to your personality these last few months and it hasn't gone unnoticed. In fact, someone who has known you awhile is pretty impressed by the way you've been acting. It's the small things that count the most, and the nice little things you've been doing and saying are adding up. Just keep being yourself and everything you want

will fall into place.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

— It's not nice to mess with other people's lives. They always find out all the nasty little things you've done, especially when it concerns someone they truly care about. Everything you've done has been brought out into the open. Your jealousy routine has gone too far and so have you. Revenge is on the way. If you think what you did was bad, be warned that you're going to get it back, times three.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

— A close friend of the opposite sex wants to be more than just friends. Isn't it time you took the relationship to the next level? You aren't the only one who likes him/her. Nervous or not, you've got to move quickly. Go shopping and invest in a new wardrobe and change your hairstyle. Do anything that will give you the confidence to just go for it.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

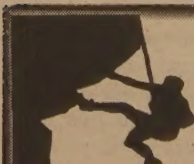
— You've got all the information and now it's decision time. What is it you really want to accomplish? You need to figure out where you want to be in five years and how you're going to get there. A chance meeting re-unites you with someone from your past.

For entertainment purposes only.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

— Tackle that project you've been meaning to get done. Letting it go until the last minute will only cause you more stress, and you've certainly had too much of that already. The good news is that's all about to



Rock climbing lessons

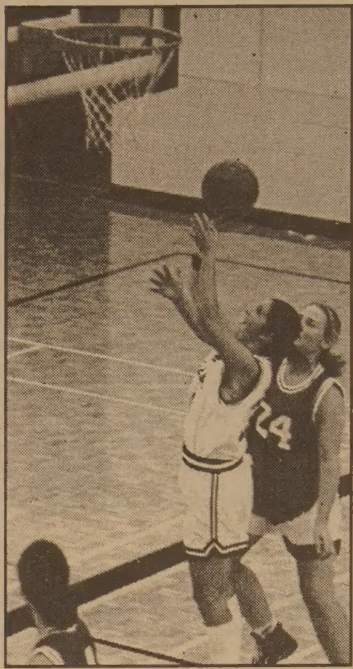
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Sports

Rookie steps in, takes charge



MELISSA HALLBORG

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

It's not often a rookie steps in and becomes a leader.

However, this is what Melissa Hallborg has done this season for the Niagara Knights women's basketball team.

Hallborg, 19, of Welland, is one of six rookies on the team, yet she has taken it upon herself to be a team leader.

She says she gets along with every player on the team.

"I get along with them in a different way," says Hallborg, a first-year Accounting (Co-op) program student.

"Every person is different, and I feel I know the buttons to press to get them pumped before the game. I know what to do, and I know what songs to play. I know their little things."

Hallborg says she thinks the rest of the team respect her for that.

"I think they kind of look up to me in that way because I can get them pumped, and I get them to have a good game," she says.

Hallborg has been playing competitive basketball since Grade 6 and says she was "excited" to play college ball for the Knights.

'I get along with them in a different way.'

—Melissa Hallborg

"I was excited because we got a new coach (Georgie Groat), and I knew some of the girls because we played in a summer camp."

Although she says she was nervous coming to play college basketball, she was confident she could succeed.

"I was really nervous before (the first game). It took me a while to get into it. Once I scored my first basket, that's when I settled down, and I think I scored 11 points that game."

Hallborg says she has noticed a big difference between high school and college ball.

"It means a lot more, on a personal note," she says. "In high school, it wasn't as serious. In college, every game is like a high school playoff game. I take it more seriously."

Hallborg says playing with Andrea Flindall has helped improve her own game.

"She's my captain, and I really respect her game, and I look up to her a lot."

She says Groat has been a "great" coach this season.

"She is probably the best coach I've ever had. She gets really close

to the players which, usually on a (women's) team, you kind of need because we have a lot of emotions. She sets down the rules when she needs to, and she's there as a good friend when needed."

Hallborg says a realistic goal for the team would be to finish in third place, although she admits it won't be easy, and she'll have to play harder.

"I think I need to step my game up a lot and show a little bit of leadership and get everybody pumped. That's usually my job because I've got the biggest mouth on the team."

Hallborg says when players around the league hear her name, she wants them to think of her as a hard-working player.

"I give 100 per cent every game because that's ultimately what I look for. I don't care (about personal goals). As a team, we (have) to have a good game. It's not a one-man thing."

Being recruited doesn't guarantee place

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Being recruited doesn't necessarily guarantee a place on the team.

Haldon Hutchison, a rookie point-guard on the Niagara Knights men's basketball team, says he knew he had to work hard in order to make the team.

"I was a little nervous whether or not I'd make the team," says Hutchison, 20, a first-year student in the Business Administration program.

"Even though I was recruited, I was nervous. It was just the competitiveness. I wasn't intimidated because I knew my skills were up to par. I was just nervous."

He says after playing his first college game, he knew he had a lot to learn.

"For my first college game, I played fairly well, but it was against the No. 1 ranked team in Canada.

I was pretty much shut down by the point-guard.

"I felt like I had a lot of improving to do. I had to work on my defensive skills."

Hutchison says he has noticed a big difference between high school and college ball.

"There's a very big difference. The college game is very fast-paced. It's more defence-oriented. The 30-second clock, that's why the game is so fast-paced."

One of the reasons for Hutchison's steady improvement is the coaching of Jeff MacDonald, who is in his second season as coach of the Knights.

"He's a really good coach," says Hutchison. "He runs us hard (in practice). I'm in the best shape I've ever been in my life."

Although the Knights have struggled over the first four games of the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) season,

Hutchison says the team will get better.

"It will improve. I just have to run plays better."

"We want to make the provincials, for sure, but our ultimate goal is to make it to the CCAA (Canadian Colleges Athletic Association) championships in Alberta."

Hutchison says he sees himself as a team leader.

"I'm the captain, and I pretty much have a cool head when I play. I just play with intensity, and they feed off of me."

Although the team has lost Marcus O'Connor for the season and will more than likely lose Steve Boyle after the season, Hutchison says the team can expect good results next year.

"We just have to do a good recruiting job this summer. We need to look for two key big men, and we'll be able to make a run at it."

Hutchison says when he leaves



Haldon Hutchison (21) drops in two of the 15 points he scored against Mohawk on Jan. 22.

Photo by Lee Whitehead

Niagara College, he wants to be remembered for his basketball skills.

"I want (people) to say I was the

best point-guard ever to come through Niagara College. I want them to say that I had a lot of skills and that I worked hard on defence."

Opportunity missed for Niagara Knights

Basketball aces didn't follow key game plan

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The opportunity was missed.

The Niagara College Knights women's basketball team had the opportunity to even their record for the first time all season yet failed to capitalize on the opportunity, losing 49-38 to Toronto's Seneca College Sting on Jan. 29.

The Knights, who had just beaten Mohawk three nights earlier, struggled from the beginning of the game.

"These guys are (playing) really inconsistent," said Knights' head coach Georgie Groat. "They can play really great. Then they can play not so great. Today, we had a game plan, and they didn't follow it. There's a lot of things that we can do, but we didn't follow the game plan."

"I think most of us weren't into the game," said rookie point-guard Candace Oxford, 20, a first-year Business Administration program student. "It was a tough game. We knew we had to win. We just couldn't catch (any) passes."

Seneca went on a 13-0 run to pull out a 19-6 lead at the midway point of the first half. The Knights

Knights could only pull to within two points of Seneca, and costly little mistakes and turnovers cost

suffered a letdown after the big win against Mohawk, although Groat disagreed.

"We're just going to have to practice," she said. "We need to be more patient and more disciplined."

Oxford said she believes the team can play better.

"We need to run plays instead of just running around," she said, "and just set up and make our shots."

Scoring for the Knights were Andrea Flindall (nine points), Kristin Flindall (nine), Melissa Hallborg (six), Heidi VanDerWier (six), Oxford (four) and LeighAnn Breault (four).

Next action for Niagara will be Feb. 9 when they travel to Toronto for the rematch against Seneca.

'It was a tough game. We knew we had to win. We just couldn't catch (any) passes.'

—Candace Oxford

ended the half on a surge and went to the locker room down 25-20.

However, try as they may, the

them the chance to pull even with the Sting.

Oxford said she thought the team

Sports

Gellard to represent Ontario

By JEFF BOLAN
Staff Writer

In a decisive manner, the Gellard curling rink has won the right to represent Ontario at the ladies' Scott Tournament of Hearts (STOH).

Gellard defeated the Brown rink 5-3 in the final game of the Ontario Ladies Curling Association championships of the STOH held in Niagara Falls, Ont. last weekend.

Kim Gellard, vice Sherry Sheirich, second Sally Karam and lead Allison Ross, represented the Unionville Curling Club and defeated a Brown team that had been dominant all week during round-robin play.

The Brown team consisted of skip Janet Brown, vice Lori Eddy, second Kirsten Harmark and lead Sara Garland and played out of the Sutton Curling Club.

Both the Gellard and Brown rinks held a 7-2 record after the round robin. By virtue of Brown's defeat of Gellard in the round robin, Brown was guaranteed a spot in the finals.

In order to make it to the final game, Gellard had to play the Merklinger rink in the semi-final match.

The Gellard team defeated Merklinger 6-4 in a tightly fought battle.

This year's Ontario STOH had one of the strongest fields ever, led



Sherry Sheirich of the Anne Merklinger rink watches as her stone travels down the ice.

Photo by Jeff Bolan

by local favourite and former world champion Marilyn Bodogh playing out of the St. Catharines Curling Club, former Ontario champion Anne Merklinger representing the Rideau Curling Club, of Ottawa, and perennial contender Colleen Madonia from the Soo Curling Association, of Sault Ste. Marie.

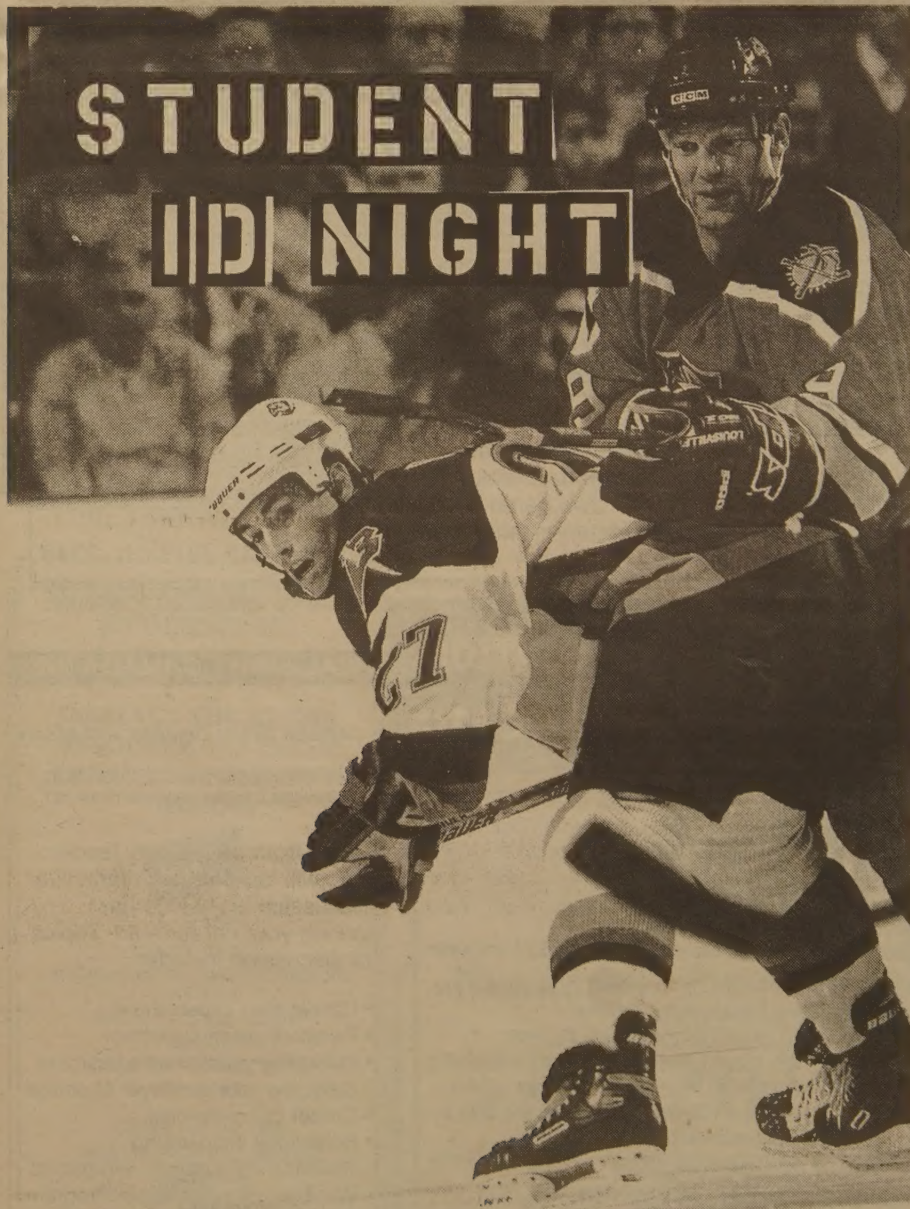
Gellard will now face the strongest women curlers in the country in Charlottetown, P.E.I., in late March.

Among those in Charlottetown will be Olympic Gold champion Sandra Schmirler, out to redeem herself from a poor finish at last year's STOH final.



(From left) The Merklinger rink from the Rideau Curling Club, in Ottawa, and the Gellard rink from the Unionville Curling Club are presented to the crowd at the Niagara Falls Curling Club, 5801 Morrison St., last Saturday before they played the semi-final game in this year's Ontario Provincial Scott Tournament of Hearts. Gellard won the game and went on to win the final becoming this year's champion.

Photo by Leah Farnan



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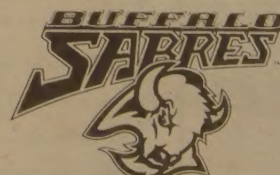
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Sports

Rowing championship boon for Niagara

By LAZARUS NATHANE
Staff Writer

ST. CATHARINES — The Niagara Region will have the world's attention this summer when St. Catharines is host to the 1999 World Rowing Championships.

The event, being held from Aug. 22 to 29 at the Henley rowing course, is sanctioned by Federation Internationale des Societes de Aviron (FISA), the world rowing governing body.

The city's mayor, Tim Rigby, and the championship's organizing committee general manager, Dave Brennan, say the event is a boon for the Region.

"We have an opportunity to show us off to the world," says the mayor. "More business at a particular city benefits the Region as a whole."

Adding to the advantage, he says, is the fact the Niagara Region is centrally located and is, as a result, "beneficiary" to cities such as Toronto and Buffalo, N.Y.

The championships, which are a "major" qualifier for the 2000 Summer Olympic Games to be held in Sydney, Australia, are not new to either Rigby, Brennan or the city.

The mayor says he was ticket chairman in 1970 when the city hosted a similar competition. Rigby is this year's event co-chairman with John Lehnen.

Brennan, too, brings "a wealth of experience" in helping to organize an event of this magnitude.

His credentials, he says, include stints as venue and sports co-ordinator during the 1993 World University Games at the Henley course.



Ransberry Photography

TIM RIGBY

Also, he worked in the venue management for rowing at the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Ga.

A resident of Williamsville, N.Y., the 40-year-old was hired last October by the St. Catharines World Rowing Organizing Committee. His tenure will last a year.

Speaking from his office at 140 Welland Ave., St. Catharines, he says plans are progressing well, and between 50 and 70 countries are expected to take part.

"There will be a great influx of people from Europe and other parts of the world," he says. "We expect the city and the Region to be on the world map as a result."

As someone overseeing the organizing of the event, he says he is charged with a number of duties.

Among those are arranging for

the tents to be set up at the Henley Island, finding boats needed to run duties related to the championships and finalizing budgets.

Grant Dobson, marketing chairman for St. Catharines World Rowing, says the city, the provincial and the federal governments pitched in with funding.

The municipality, he says, contributed about \$1.5 million for the upgrading of the rowing site to meet FISA standards.

In addition, about \$1.5 million and \$3 million have come from Queen's Park and Ottawa respectively.

The other source of funding is sponsorship. For this reason, he says, Tri-Media Marketing and Publicity Inc., of Welland, has been contracted to help line up local businesses and corporations.

Disappointing protest

Rescheduled game leads to St. Clair win

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

The protesting of Jan. 22 women's volleyball game against St. Clair College from Windsor proved to be disappointing for the Knights.

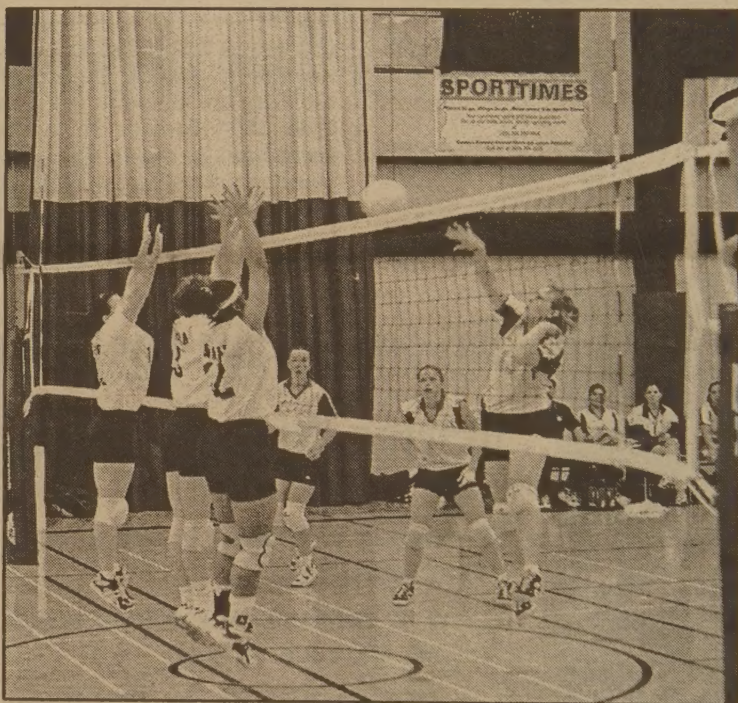
St. Clair protested the Jan. 22 game because there was a question of eligibility of one St. Clair's players. The game was rescheduled to last Saturday, Jan. 30.

The Knights lost the rematch 4-15, 15-6, 15-10 and 15-8.

Leading the Knights in kills was Michelle Stenton with 11 and followed by Iazayana Chavez with six and adding three serve aces.

Liana Collins had two stuffed blocks.

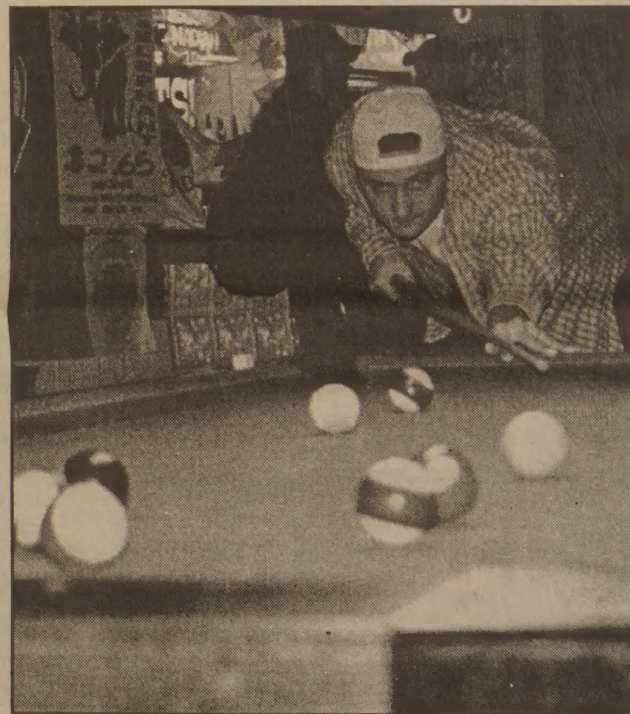
The women's Ontario Colleges Athletic Association volleyball quarter finals take place at the Welland campus on Feb. 15 and 16.



Iazayana Chavez, #12, goes up for the block along with her teammates. The Knights lost the game to St. Clair College in four sets.

Photo by Amy Kaal

Pool anyone?



Damian Ordon, 20, of the Electronic Engineering program, takes a break from his studies for a game of pool at After Hours on the Welland

campus.

Photo by Aaron Beaudoin

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Eye On Niagara

Employment Services assists students

School helps students, graduates and alumni find jobs

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

Getting a job is a full-time job, and Niagara College is willing to help students, graduates and alumni in that search.

On Jan. 29, Janet Forfar, consultant, graduate employment, in Employment Services, spoke to approximately 40 second-year students of the Journalism-Print pro-

gram at the Welland campus.

"I am anxious that you know from today about the services that are available to you here at Niagara College as a graduating class," Forfar said. "Those services are directed both at the students who are graduating and the employers out in the community who may be looking at hiring college graduates."

She said her job is to bring graduates from all programs and employers together to make sure they are prepared for the hiring process and, it's hoped, make some good matches.

The Welland campus office for Employment Services is SE101, across from the rear entrance to the book store, phone number 735-2211 ext. 7787. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Summer and part-time jobs are posted outside the office. Graduate

job listings are posted inside the office.

Her job is to bring graduates from all programs and employers together to make sure they are prepared.

Forfar stresses the importance of an impressive résumé aimed at what the employers want.

"You're not just competing with your classmates or other people at colleges. You're competing for jobs that are being sought after by other people in the community, and some

with experience."

What the employers want, she said, are the following: the ability to communicate, intelligence, self-confidence, willingness to accept responsibility, initiative, high energy level, effective interpersonal skills, flexibility, ability to handle conflict and vocational skills, including computer, mathematical and written communications skills.

Résumé paper is sold at the office for 10 to 15 cents per sheet. For those who choose, résumés can be typed at the office. A phone is available for students and even long-distance calls are free if they are employment related. A fax service is also free, but the students must operate it themselves. A résumé typing service charges \$7 per page.

Forfar suggests students start preparing their résumés now if they

expect to have a job just after graduation. She said the average job search for college graduates in good times takes four months, "which is what we're having close to now or as close as we've seen in a long time."

She said for those who want to use the college's computers, they have negotiated for students to keep their accounts for one year after graduation. Usually student accounts expire after graduation.

If students register with Employment Services and leave six copies of their résumés, when any postings come in, the résumés that match those employers' needs will be sent out to the company. She said opportunities do come in and at any time of the year.

"We're here to help you in any way that we can."

Artisan weaver has clientele from across globe

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

Hillie Bakker stands in the warm and fuzzy embrace of the basement shop of her home, marking prices on handspun wool knitting yarns. The walls and tables surrounding her are laden with handknit or handwoven sweaters, hats, scarves, shawls, mitts, skirts, dresses and sheepskins. Bushels of washed fleece line the floor.

Bakker, an artisan weaver, moved with her family of five from Hamilton to Wellandport to start the Warm and Wonderful Wool Farm five years ago. "We lived in Hamilton for 12 years, and I felt totally out of place. I dug up the front yard and the backyard with plants and herbs."

Prior to purchasing the farm, Bakker said she had no experience raising sheep for wool — just a desire to have her own source of fleece.

Bakker has 100 sheep on her farm, including long-wool and shorter fleece breeds. Bakker said she likes to cross-breed her sheep so that they are a four-way cross — three of long-wool and one of a shorter, softer fleeced sheep.

"Different wools have different feels to them." Wool from long-wool sheep like the Romney, Leicester and Lincoln breeds is coarse, and they "tend to have curly locks that are close together," whereas wool from the Tunis and Finnish Landrace breeds produces a "very soft wool," said Bakker.

People who think they're allergic to wool, very often aren't, said

Bakker. Rather, she said, they are reacting to the chemicals some commercial mills use to clean the wool that in turn can make the wool brittle and coarse.

Educating the general public about Ontario wool is important to Bakker. Last year, with financial assistance from the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency in Guelph, Bakker had a crew of students from Niagara College's Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program chronicle the activities on the farm once a month for nearly a year.

The outcome is a video capturing the birthing of lambs, the fall shearing process, the processing of commercial wool at the Belle Vallee Wool Mill near New Liskeard (Bakker washes, dyes and cards her own fleece), to Bakker spinning the yarn in her shop.

"Most people don't know anything about (wool production)."

The videos are available for sale in her shop, but Bakker sells the video and the accompanying workbook she designed to private schools and teachers. Bakker says she encourages school tours and opens her barn to the public on Easter weekend to allow them to view the new lambs and again at shearing time.

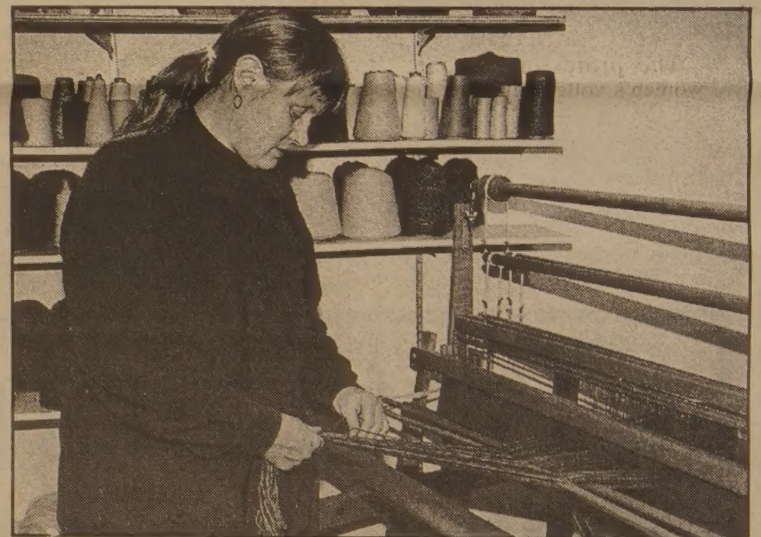
She has a Web site at www.tourismniagara.com/warmandwonderful. Her clientele comes from the United States, Niagara Falls, Toronto and more recently Wales. "They downloaded the map from the Web site," she said.

Her shop is open daily from noon

to 5 p.m. March to December. January and February is by appointment only as it is lambing time. Guided farm tours are available from May to October. Weaving

lessons are also available by appointment.

The farm is located two kilometres east of Wellandport off Regional Rd. 27.



Hillie Bakker of Warm and Wonderful Wool Shop in Wellandport separates the wool for weaving.

Photo by Rosemary Bartlett

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Eye On Niagara

Mexican students recruited by college

Education fair

By **MUN-HEE SHIN**
Staff Writer

Hola!

Craig Edwards and Carolyn Ambrose, of Niagara College, are heading to Mexico to participate in an education fair.

Edwards, 37, of Thorold, is international projects consultant for the International Trade program at the Glendale campus. Ambrose, 33, of Mississauga, is an English as a Second Language teacher.

They are scheduled to leave Canada on Feb. 17 and stay in Mexico for 10 days.

Set up by the Canadian Education Centre (CEC), the fair is held in Monterrey first and then in Mexico City, said Ambrose.

"My duty is to recruit Mexican students who are truly interested in coming to Canada and taking the International Trade program at Niagara College," said Edwards,

adding he's also looking for international students from other countries.

Founded in April 1995, the CEC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.

It provides high quality service to support in-Canada, overseas clients, Canada's foreign policy and development assistance objectives worldwide.

"I'm hoping, first, to be able to promote Niagara College as a progressive institute that has developed programs which are relevant to today's needs," said Edwards.

The CEC is run in partnership with the Canadian federal government, specifically with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian International Development Agency and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

To date, there are 14 CEC offices in the following cities: Bangkok, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Mexico City, New Delhi,

Singapore, Seoul, Taipei, Beijing, Canberra, Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo and Santiago.

"The CEC keeps information on Canadian schools for international students who want to know about schools to apply for," said Ambrose.

She described herself as a promoter for Niagara College in the education fair.

"I know it's going to be hectic, but I'm really looking forward to it," said Ambrose. "I think it'll be exciting to stand as an official delegate for the college."

Edwards said, in addition to recruiting Mexican students, he has an extra activity after the main schedule.

"I'm going to be assisting in the promotion of doing business for Canada with a university in Mexico. This project is to assist in finding possible trade linkages with other parts of the world."

He mentioned there are many economic development officials, organizations and universities that have shown interest in sharing some

of their economic objectives with Canada, especially with the Niagara Region.

"I'm very pleased with how things are going so far. All the indicators suggest to me that we've

been on the right track," said Edwards, adding, "Carolyn and I will do our best to promote the college and the region in a way that people, at least, have to look twice at what we're offering."



Recruiting Mexican students are Carolyn Ambrose and Craig Edwards.

Photo by Mun-Hee Shin

New partnership with Brock University

Staff Writer

There's a new partnership between Niagara College and Brock University in St. Catharines.

A press conference today will launch a new Agriculture Technical Information Service, aimed at providing quick access to the latest technical and business information on existing domestic and international technologies to support research, development and commercialization in small and medi-

um-size enterprises in the broader agriculture and agri-food sector.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson and Brock University President David Atkinson officially announced this new joint venture today at the college's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The service will be funded by the National Research Council through its Industrial Research Assistance Program.

Community recognizes women's role

Women moving forward

By **RACHEL CZIFRA**
Staff Writer

Work is under way on the first Niagara Region Women's Business Directory, the Welland Business and Community Development Corp. (WBCDC)

has announced.

Women Moving Forward — Welland-Pelham will profile more than 500 listings of women in the public and private sectors of business, the professions and corporations.

"The development of a business directory in the Niagara Region is an important step in recognizing the increasingly important role of women in busi-

ness and in the community," said Chris Yakymishen, chair of Women Moving Forward.

Expected to be released in Spring 1999, the directory will facilitate networking and advertising. It may be picked up at the WBCDC, 46 King St. in Welland or you can register online at www.wellandnow.com. For more information call Kathy Difiore at 735-8085.

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Eye On Niagara

Event's success depends on planning

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Getting "hands-on" experience provides students with a "fascinating" look at the "importance of creating strong communication channels."

"I thought it would be good for my students to be involved with the conference," said Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to the Niagara College's president.

The conference, held at the Ramada Inn in St. Catharines on Oct. 22, 1998, focused on creating ideas for economic development in the Niagara Region. Premier Mike Harris attended.

Neufeld, who taught the public relations principles course to Public Relations (Post-graduate) program students during the fall term, said he felt it was important for his students to see how the media interacted with the participants.

He said the five students were responsible for running the registration desk, which included handing out press packages to the media and registering guests.

Mary Cochrane, 24, of St. Catharines, said it was a terrific public relations opportunity, although they weren't involved with the "ins and outs" of the actual conference.

"But what we were concentrating on was the set up, the organization and what went on in the background," said Cochrane, adding, "and, that's what I think was really fascinating."

Cochrane, who has a bachelor of arts in theatre and dramatic literature, said she was nervous meet-



Ontario Premier Mike Harris is standing with Mary Cochrane (at left), Belinda Thomas, Phil Carey and Stephen Murdoch, all students in the college's Public Relations (Post-graduate) program.

Photo submitted by Ontario Jobs and Investment Board

ing the premier.

"I think we were all trying to be as professional as possible," adding they were trying to be good ambassadors for the college.

Cochrane said it helped her in her program as it was her first chance to see the amount of work and detail that goes into putting on such an event. Her internship is at Estée Lauder in Toronto.

Sara Buchan, 31, of Welland, said, "I think from our perspective, it was a good exercise to see an event in practice — as it goes — to watch people juggle things and handle crises."

She said from their view as public relations students, they felt it was useful to watch the pros in action, adding, "I'm not talking about Mike Harris. I'm talking

about the organization of the event."

She said it was interesting to see someone take an event from paper to execution and then have to deal with all the "unexpected things" that come up because of the human factor.

Buchan, who has 10 years' experience in broadcasting — half of this as a broadcast journalist — said it was interesting to be on the other side of an event.

She said she's been to similar events in the past, but this time she saw it from the organizer's standpoint.

"Now I'm trying to learn a whole different mindset, and it's interesting. It was a great experience, a high-profile event in which you have to think on your feet."

Buchan said it was an "excellent opportunity" as a public relations student because going from the classroom to the practical side can, in some ways, be a big leap.

She said her ultimate goal is to work in media relations for a pro hockey team. Her internship is with the Ontario Centre of Excellence for the Canadian Hockey Association in Toronto.

Phil Carey, 23, of Fonthill, was also on hand at the conference.

"I thought it was a great opportunity," said Carey, adding, "I really enjoyed working in that atmosphere."

He said it was a pleasure to be associated with people of that stature.

It fit into his course of study well as it provided an impression of how conferences and functions of that nature are conducted.

He said he had an opportunity to meet the premier and absorbed a lot.

Carey, who is completing his internship with the National Football League's Buffalo Bills, said he hopes to eventually work in sports administration.

Stephen Murdoch, also a participant, said it was good for the college to be involved with such an event. For a public relations student, it was an extension of how to deal with people and how to effectively deal with the media. He said it reinforced "the importance of creating strong communication channels."

Murdoch, who has a bachelor of arts in political science, said the public relations program is and isn't

what he expected.

"I can see myself doing it, but I don't know in what fashion."

"I like the idea of what we've learned about the media, how important the media are and working with journalists creating a strong relationship."

Murdoch said he plans to get into politics in the future as he wants to run for city council in St. Catharines. His internship is with the Fort Erie Economic Development Corp., which focuses on attracting business to Fort Erie.

Belinda Thomas was also present at the conference.

"It was a really great way to see how events are planned," said Thomas, 23, of St. Catharines.

She said although they didn't get to see what steps led up to the event, they did see how the event unfolded, what could have gone wrong and how these things were avoided.

She adds it interested her to see how a political event worked.

"I think a lot of it is dramatized. It was sort of exciting on a Canadian level," she said.

Thomas, who has a bachelor of arts degree in communications, media and culture, said she hasn't decided what she wants to do yet, but she enjoys the program.

"It's really different from university in that you get a really good hands-on practical view of the way it works."

Thomas has an internship with the public relations firm OEB International in St. Catharines.

Brock Philosophic Society presents love, family symposium

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

Everyone is invited to attend the Love and the Family Symposium presented by the Brock Philosophic Society on Feb. 11, 12 and 13 at Brock University, St. Catharines.

Philosophers and theologians from across North America will be

at Brock to celebrate 2,000 years of agape. The symposium opens Feb. 11 at 9 a.m. in the Senate Chamber.

Professor Ken Schmitz, of the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, in Washington, D.C., will deliver his keynote address entitled Intimacy

and the Family on Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Pond Inlet, at the Brock campus.

Other presentations are scheduled throughout the three days.

For more information contact Professor David Gailcochea at (905) 688-5550, ext. 3315.



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Our People Make the Difference

Carnival starts

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.

The 36th annual Welland Winter Carnival starts tonight at 6:30 at the Welland Tennis Club with a by-invitation-only Coronation Ball.

The carnival, which runs from Feb. 5 to 23, "gets people motivated to get out and do things," says Rosie Smith, of Welland.

Smith is a volunteer with the Welland Recreation Projects Association and has organized the carnival for eight years.

"There's things for everybody to do," she says, adding the carnival isn't for a specific age group, but for "young and old alike."

Free skating, snowmobile rides and a snowmobile parade are a few of the many activities.

For more information contact Smith at (905) 732-1515.

Eye On Niagara

Ray Napper Bursary winner



Ray Napper was a popular Welland sports personality who is remembered by many people. Napper, who died last year, was a well-known boxing coach and owner of his own gym and training facility. He was a strong believer in youth, fostering strong sportsmanship and clean living. There were many successful boxers from his gym. To honour him, a Ray Napper Bursary will be awarded each year. Niagara College President Dan Patterson (at left) presents the award, along with Anita Napper, Ray's wife, to Jody Rottier, a second-year student at the college. Rottier is at the top of her class, very active in the community and a non-smoker, all fitting the criteria for the award. With them is Richard Wills, a friend of the family. The \$500 bursary award was established by Ray's wife, family and friends.

Photo by Aaron Beaudoin

Community donations helped teen centre's doors stay open

By SARA DE TAMBLE
Staff Writer

The Fort Erie Teen Centre had a close brush with death over the Christmas holidays when a lack of funding almost forced its closure.

Dale Hirons, 53, of Fort Erie, is the centre's founder and driving force. He says the \$10,000 budget imposed by the Town in August 1998, a substantial drop from the allotted \$160,000 of the year before, didn't give the centre much to work with.

"By the middle of December, we were out of money," says Hirons, adding the centre stayed open until the Christmas holidays only as the result of donations from the community.

The centre is a non-profit charity and is home to "about 30 to 35 youth nightly," says Hirons.

Open from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. on weeknights December through May, it provides activities such as arts and crafts, counseling services, sports and movie nights.

This year a food program began providing free hot food nightly, at an operating cost of "about \$100 a week," says Hirons.

Although the centre didn't receive much recognition or support when Hirons first brainstormed the idea in 1995, he says support from town council and the community increased once people realized there was a need, and teens were benefiting.

"We still have goals to work

towards," Hirons says, "but at least now we have a little more help in reaching them."

After addressing council on Dec. 21, Hirons says he received permission to work two additional bingos on Boxing Day and New Year's Eve. He worked them himself to raise funds.

"The only problem was we had exceeded our \$10,000 bingo budget, so we couldn't touch the money we had made," says Hirons.

Hirons then had to put in a request to the town for a bingo budgetary amendment to make the money the legal property of the centre. The request was granted, as was his request for a new budget to help free additional money to carry them through until May.

"What people have to realize is that we also have overhead costs as a result of running the centre itself," says Hirons. These include such items as insurance premiums, office supplies, advertisements for events, and putting on the dances enjoyed by the teens. "(These) all take money out of the budget."

Hirons says he wants to advertise more for the centre. It has its own Web site, but he'd like to be able to make up fliers and informational packages so people can see what it's all about.

"We need some kind of public relations to reach out of Fort Erie and into other communities but we just don't have the money right now."

Post-graduate program worth wait for writers

By MELINDA SPURVEY
Staff Writer

It may have been two years in the making, but it's worth the wait.

Scriptwriting for Visual Media, a new post-graduate program at Niagara College, was created just over two years ago. The idea was raised in an advisory board meeting, says Andrew Stevenson, co-ordinator of the program.

"Some of the industry representatives that we had on the board suggested that there was a need for this kind of program dedicated strictly to screenwriting."

Stevenson, who has been an instructor in the college's Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program for five years, says the program will be taught primarily by working professionals.

"Our line-up of instructors hasn't been confirmed yet, but last year we had lined up people who had written for television shows like *Traders* and people who have written feature films nominated for Genie awards."

With the recent American interest in the Canadian media industry, the program is designed as closely as possible to meet the industry's needs.

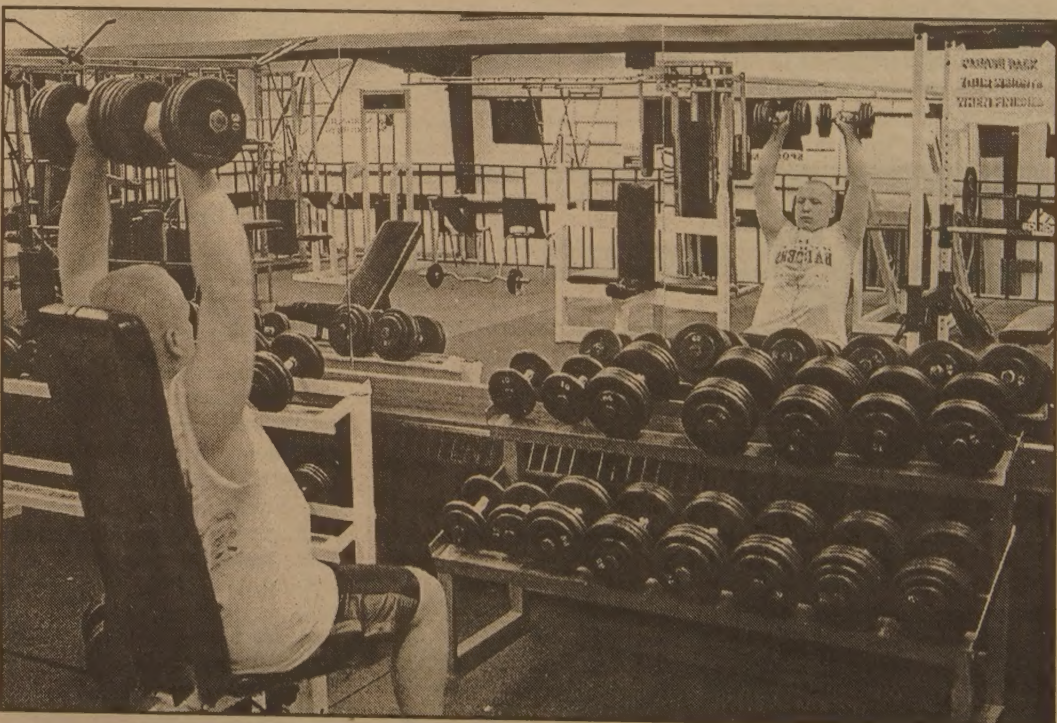
"The Canadian industry is concentrated largely in television and specializes in animation, children's television and interactive multimedia. So we have tried to include those things in the program, and I expect that a lot of people will be writing scripts for film in the program, which is an important core aspect for the film and television industry. But there are all these other fields to consider."

Stevenson says there are specific requirements for program admission.

"Someone would have had to have graduated with an undergraduate degree from college or university in a related field. You can't really come into the program without any knowledge of film, television or broadcasting. You should have writing experience. That is the most important thing."

Deadline for applications is March 1 through the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS). Forms are available at the Registrar's office, Admissions and Financial Aid offices or on the OCAS Web site www.ocas.on.ca. A \$65 processing fee applies.

Getting ready for the beach



Summer's coming, so get out and make use of Niagara College's Welland campus' gym equipment, which is available to all college students. After all you want to look good on the beach don't you?

Photo by Aaron Beaudoin